



CITY OF MARINE CITY

303 S. Water Street
MARINE CITY, MICHIGAN 48039
(810) 765-8846 • Fax (810) 765-4010

August 16, 2011

Ms. Marlene Dortch
Secretary
Federal Communications Commission
445 Twelfth Street, Southwest
Washington, DC
20554

RE: AT&T and T-Mobile's proposed merger, WT Proceeding No. 11-65

Dear Commissioners:

For centuries, Marine City, Michigan has been known for its connectedness. At the confluence of the St. Clair and Belle rivers, Marine City is a short ride from Ontario and in close proximity to the metropolitan Detroit area. Our rich history of shipbuilding further solidifies Marine City's reputation as a hub for commerce and transportation.

To continue our past success well into the 21st Century, Marine City must extend its connectedness from the physical to the technological. That requires, in a word, broadband. A thriving, dependable, and ever-present mobile broadband network would provide our city's residents access to telecommuting, distance education, e-Health applications, and easier communication with family and friends. It would also boost our local economy by encouraging innovation and offering a viable business platform.

Our efforts to establish widespread broadband access are slightly complicated by the rural nature of some segments of our community. Despite our uniquely connected location, we maintain the atmosphere of a small town. This benefit sometimes comes, regrettably, with a related lack of technology service.

I have confidence, however, that this shortcoming will soon dissipate. AT&T's proposed merger with T-Mobile, which you have before you now for consideration, will provide a 4th Generation LTE network that reaches approximately 97% of Americans, rural and urban alike. The service and applications offered by AT&T would also be improved, providing a great benefit to the underserved residents of Marine City.

"In the Heart of Blue Water District"




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In light of the potential this merger presents for our city, I urge you to approve it at your soonest opportunity. My constituents and I would be appreciative.

Sincerely,



Charles Browne
Mayor, City of Marine
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CC: Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael Copps
Commissioner Robert McDowell